



## **OCEANA NAVAL AIR STATION**

**Corrosion Control Hangar portion of FA/18 BRAC relocation project**

**Overall accident view for fall which occurred during a repositioning operation to steel joists of lower roof section 3 Feb 99.**



**Steel erection worker/welder was reattaching joists for rework in this area when he fell approximately 12 feet**



**Witness summary indicates worker was welding at this location**





- During fall the worker struck the top of this door frame with his lower torso



- The worker then fell on this pallet causing a gash to the front head area

# SUMMARY

- The operation at the time of the accident involved the repositioning (demolition) of several joists which were incorrectly installed at the wrong elevation.
- The majority of the steel installed on this facility has been performed utilizing an articulating boom platform (JLG man basket). The rework operation being performed at the time at the accident did not allow JLG access due to the surrounding steel already installed - the process changed for this one time non-routine unplanned process.
- During on site discussions, the steel erection company foreman indicated that the fall protection standard allowed the worker to tie off when at his work area but that the worker may travel to his work area without positive fall protection (being tied off). This misunderstanding, and inability to recognize the fall hazard and 100 % fall protection requirement for his workers, promulgated the decision to stop the steel work at the corrosion control hangar site until an acceptable replacement could be provided by the contractor to meet the requirements. W.M. Jordan safety manager, Mr. Scott Sutton, who was on site performing an investigation, has made contact with a local construction safety consultant (Mr. Howard Hobson) to provide on site training for employees and remedial action.
- An on site all hands safety stand down was conducted at the site by Mr.. Sutton. ROICC and LANTDIV representatives attended this meeting. At LANT request all the steel workers from the other two sites (different sub contractors) involved in this contract attended.

- During the next ten days ROICC Oceana has scheduled an on site safety stand down at each of their active contracts. The stand down will be accomplished through a team from ROICC Oceana.
- The worker involved in the accident is Mr. Roger Fricky who is classified as a welder by his employer Atlantic Welding Incorporated. Mr. Fricky has been in the steel erection trade for over ten years. Mr. Fricky has been employed with Atlantic Welding for approximately one week and has been on this site since hire. Not related to the accident, Mr. Fricky apparently had been involved in a fall accident previously while employed by John Henry Steel Inc.
- Mr. Fricky was taken to Virginia Beach General Hospital. He is being treated for a head laceration, possible fractures in sinus area, chipped tooth, and possible vertebrae injury. He has been conscious and described as lucid throughout the incident. He has complete movement in all his extremities. Condition updates are ongoing but it appears that no injuries are life threatening as previously reported.
- ROICC site QA and engineering representatives have documented and demonstrated proactive identification of hazards, particularly fall hazards, and taken action when necessary to prevent accidents at the site. Actions have included the removal of employees not in compliance and additional assurance of indoctrination for workers. Unfortunately, this particular sub had not yet been included in this additional indoctrination effort.



# Recommendations

- Review W.M. Jordan required site incentives program. Recommend that a monetary or other incentive for each work crew or worker be implemented immediately. This process involves the selection of a crew for the reward based on Zero lost time accidents or excellence in safety performance over a given time period. This process assures that the importance of safety in a positive reinforced consequence is communicated to the workers on the site.
- ROICC site QA is assuring activity hazard analysis (AHA) are provided and that the AHA is reviewed during the preparatory phase of inspection before work on each phase is started. The contractor (W.M. Jordan) must document a QC check to assure the competencies of the site workers, particularly the sub contractor foreman responsible for directing and controlling the work force. The finding that the on site foreman (14 years experience) was unable to recognize the fall hazard for his workers is a root problem which should be corrected immediately.
- W.M. Jordan must incorporate a more aggressive indoctrination program for contractor employees including sub contractor employees. The existing process for new employees arriving at the site is not adequately applied to sub contractor employees. If other than W.M. Jordan indoctrination processes are to be used they must be documented and amended to the project safety plan.
- This file will be disseminated throughout LANDIV